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# Farm Broadcasters Letter



Letter No. 2184

October 11, 1984

## MORE EMERGENCY FARM LOANS

Sec'y of Agriculture John Block named counties in 5 states as eligible for Farmers Home Administration emergency farm loans because of losses due to weather:

Minnesota - 7 primary counties and 6 contiguous counties  
Montana - 21 primary, 17 contiguous counties  
Oklahoma - 1 primary, 5 contiguous counties  
Washington - 2 primary, 5 contiguous counties  
Texas - 21 primary, 73 contiguous counties

Farmers and/or ranchers in those counties have eight months in which to apply for the loans to help cover part of their losses.

## PL 480 FOR 1985

The U.S. Department of Agriculture released tentative fiscal 1985 food assistance allocations of \$857 million under the Food for Peace Program, also called P.L. 480. The allocations are part of a planned nearly \$1.1 billion in commodity assistance for fiscal 1985. Thirty-one countries are scheduled to receive approximately 4.5 million metric tons (grain equivalent) of food assistance. The four largest allocations are for Egypt, \$225 million; Bangladesh, \$75 million; Pakistan, \$50 million; Sudan, \$50 million; and Morocco, \$45 million. The \$242.5 million not yet allocated were set aside for unforeseen needs.

## FARM LABOR REPORTS

The quarterly Farm Labor report of the U.S. Department of Agriculture will resume publication Nov. 20. New federal funding will allow the Crop Reporting Board to again issue estimates of the number of farm workers, wage rates and hours worked. The Nov. 20 report, available for free, will contain data for the week of Oct. 7-13. Subsequent Farm Labor reports, which will appear next year in Feb., May, Aug. and Nov., will be on a subscription basis for \$6 a year. Order forms are available from the Crop Reporting Board publications office, room 5829 South, USDA, Wash., D.C. 20250.

## FINAL RULE CHANGES

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has adopted the sixth and final set of changes proposed in a sweeping, three-year review of rules governing the marketing of livestock, poultry and meat under the Packers and Stockyards Act. The changes were published in the Sept. 24 Federal Register, effective 30 days after publication. For copies of the changes, write: Packers and Stockyards Admin., Room 3039 South, USDA, Wash., D.C. 20250. Or phone: 202/447-7051.

\$158 MILLION  
TO STATES  
FROM NAT'L  
FOREST RECEIPTS

Forty-one states and Puerto Rico will receive a total of \$158 million in interim payments from national forest receipts collected in fiscal year 1984, according to Sec'y of Agriculture John R. Block. These states will eventually receive an estimated \$211 million as their share of national forest receipts for the year. The largest interim payments will be made to: Oregon, \$59 million; Calif., \$31 million; Washington, \$19 million; and Idaho, \$7 million. The smallest payment is to North Dakota, \$75.76.

NO MEAT  
IMPORT LIMITS

Sec'y of Agriculture John R. Block announced that the fourth quarterly estimate of U.S. meat imports for 1984 is below the level that would legally require quotas or other limitations on imports. Based on USDA estimates of available supplies, imports of beef and certain other meats should be no more than 1,190 million pounds, about 38 million below the 1984 trigger level of 1,228 million pounds.

SOYBEANS AS  
MOVIE STARS

High speed movies of soybean harvesting may save farmers some \$246 million, based on last year's soybean harvest, according to a researcher of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. He freeze-framed scenes of the film and observed that when the combine cuts the bean stalks, the teeth jar loose too many beans that fall to the ground and are lost. About 4 pct. of last year's 1.6 billion bushel soybean crop fell to the ground. The researcher experimented with a technique that cuts and "airlifts" soybeans into the harvesting machine so fewer beans land on the ground. He used curved discs, similar to rotary disc mowers.

WASPS PROJECT  
FARMERS FROM  
\$29 MILLION  
BITE

Wasps that don't sting, imported from Europe, kept at least \$29 million in the U.S. farmers' pockets throughout the East and Midwest in recent years, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The parasitic wasps protected farmers' alfalfa fields from a costly pest called the alfalfa blotch leafminer, also an immigrant from Europe. Other parasitic wasps that biologically control another pest, the alfalfa weevil, helped Northeast alfalfa growers save at least \$16 million in insecticide. Among growers, 90 pct. used to routinely spray insecticides for the weevils, now less than 10 pct. need to spray.

FLU SURVIVORS  
FREED

Sec'y of Agriculture John R. Block lifted the federal avian influenza quarantine on all but a few premises in three counties in Penna., ending restrictions on movement of poultry and poultry products. Poultry and poultry products can now move freely, except for those on a few premises that remain quarantined. The quarantine was imposed on Nov. 4, 1983. A total of 379 flocks containing 15.7 million fowl were destroyed to halt the spread of avian flu in Penna. An additional 69 flocks with more than 1.2 million fowl were destroyed in Virginia.

DAIRY  
PRODUCTS

The following are some highlights of the 1984 dairy products report of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Butter production was 70.6 million pounds, 17 pct. below Aug. 1983 and 3 pct. below July 1984. American type cheese production totaled 207 million pounds, 10 pct. below both Aug. last year and July 1984. Total cheese output, excluding cottage cheese, was 368 million pounds during Aug., 3 pct. below Aug. 1983 and 5 pct. below July 1984.

FROM OUR TELEVISION  
SERVICE

"Rice Outlook"...The 1984 U.S. rice harvest is expected to set a new record for average yield per acre. USDA economist Barbara Stucker focuses on this forecast and factors contributing to it. Victor Powell interviews. (226)

"Tobacco Outlook"...The U.S. Department of Agriculture indicates that tobacco farmers are having an outstanding crop year. USDA economist Verner Grise talks about factors contributing to this forecast. Victor Powell interviews. (227)

"Recycling Food Wastes Through Swine"...Feeding garbage to swine has its benefits, but it also has its risks. Dr. Leroy Schnurrenburger with USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service comments on this practice and what the Department is doing to minimize the risk of disease from it. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (228)

"New Herbicide Kills Weeds"...University Of Illinois scientists have discovered a new type of herbicide that literally makes weeds commit suicide. Gary Beaumont interviews. (229)

"Aquaculture--The New Frontier"...Virginia farmer Fern Mitchell focuses on the growing demand for fish in the U.S., and the booming new market this growth presents for fish farming or aquaculture in this country. George Holmes interviews. (230)

WEATHER AND  
USSR CROPS

Showers from the eastern Ukraine, northeast through the Black Soils into the Volga Vyatsk improved moisture conditions for winter grain planting and early crop growth, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Mostly dry weather over the southern Ukraine, North Caucasus, and lower Volga Valley aided sugarbeet, corn and sunflower harvests, but showers are needed in these areas for winter grain planting. In the New Lands, rain and snow showers caused only minor delays in late harvesting in northern and eastern spring wheat areas. Subfreezing temperatures appeared late in the week just north of the grain area.

CASEY AT  
THE WHITE  
ASH?

More than 80,000 white ash trees were used to manufacture the five million baseball bats that were sold for \$39 million in 1982. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, some of the best examples of white ash are found in the national forests, particularly the Allegheny National Forest in Pennsylvania. This year marks the 100th anniversary of the first time a white ash bat smacked a baseball. And the bat now looks just as it did 100 years ago.

NEW LAW FOR  
IMPORTED CURED  
PORK PRODUCTS

Imported cured pork products will have to comply with the same new requirements for minimum protein levels imposed on domestically produced cured pork, according to a new proposal by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It was published in the Oct. 9 Fed. Register. The USDA has found that measuring protein in finished cured pork products instead of estimating the amount of curing solution provides a more accurate basis for determining compliance with the federal standards. Send comments on the proposed rule by Dec. 10 to: Hearing Clerk, Rm. 2637-S, Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250.



OFF MIKE

Just got off the phone with Harry Siemans (Golden West Broadcasting Net, Altona, Manitoba, CAN). We were exploring the possibilities of his doing a telephone interview with Sec'y John Block prior to the Secretary's visit to Canada, Oct. 17-18. The man's schedule is tight, so the interview may have to come after the visit ... James Duncan, who has been working with Jack Dillard (KRMD, Shreveport, LA), is now the exec. sec'y for the Arkansas Cattlemen's Assoc. in Little Rock. Fact is, he's still working with Jack on one daily show, but that project will end at the end of the year ... Note from Don Wick who reports the call letters for his station in Austin, MN have changed from KQAQ to KGHR. And he says the station is devoting more time and effort to farm programming ... Speaking of changing call letters (or not changing them in this case), Dink Embry reports they couldn't change the call letters of his station WHOP in Hopkinsville, KY (where Dink has worked for the past 37 years), so they did the next best thing. The station is now located on DINK EMBRY'S BUTTERMILK ROAD. How about that?! Dink also reported the local Rotary Club has set up a Dink Embry Humanitarian Award to be given annually to a worthy recipient ... Guy Davis is the new Farm Director at KOLN-TV, Lincoln, NE, replacing Larry Hall. Guy previously worked with the Nebraska TV Network in Kearney, NE ... In the "we're embarrassed" or "the gremlins musta got in the typewriter" department, we learn we goofed in a recent newsletter. In a mid-September issue of this newsletter we mentioned that Max Armstrong (WGN, Chicago) and Derry Brownfield (Brownfield Net, Center-town, MO) were back from a SE Asia trip sponsored by the U.S. Seed Grain Council. Wrong!! The trip was sponsored by the U.S. Feed Grains Council. Our thanks to Jim Mills (NAFB Sales/Marketing Director) for his eagle eye.

FROM OUR RADIO  
SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1428...(Weekly 13½ min documentary) Farm exports mean big dollars for the U.S. Brenda Curtis talks with a USDA foreign agriculture expert about the future prospects for farm exports.

AGRITAPE/FARM PROGRAM REPORT #1417...(Weekly reel of news features) USDA news highlights; Latest on Soviet purchase prospects; Honeybee miteproblems; Blasting the hired farm laborer stereotype.

CONSUMER TIME #910...(Weekly reel of five 2½-3 min features) What causes obesity?; Electronic banking scams; A good time to zap weeds; Where are the children?; Fall lawn fun.

USDA RADIO NEWS SERVICE...Thurs, Oct. 18, World cotton situation, World oilseed situation; Cattle on feed; Fri, Oct. 19, Oil crops outlook, World meat outlook, Meat production; Mon., Oct. 22, Inputs outlook, Poultry production; Tues, Oct. 23, Grain and rice stocks, Crop and weather update; Wed, Oct. 24, World ag. supply and demand; Wed, Oct. 25, Vegetable outlook.



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